

## **CLAIMS**

We claim:

1. An adjustable carry strap with foldable handles, comprising:

an elongated, and substantially planar, plastic strap portion having a first end, a second end, and a pre-selected width,

the second end having one or more longitudinally spaced male coupling portions, each male coupling portion extending from opposed lateral sides of the second end of the strap portion, adapted to matingly engage a female coupling portion,

the first end terminating in the female coupling portion having a width larger than the pre-selected width of the strap portion, the female coupling portion having an aperture adapted to serially receive each male coupling portion of the second end of the strap portion, each of said coupling portions, when inserted into the aperture of the female coupling portion, being capable of detachably engaging a part of the female coupling portion;

a pair of handle half portions, each handle half extending from opposed lateral sides of the strap portion, and being aligned substantially symmetrically to one another about a longitudinal axis of the device, each handle half portion having a U-shape with two or more connecting portions substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the strap portion and one grip portion arranged between the two connecting portions, laterally spaced from the lateral edge of the strap portion, and substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the strap portion, the handle half portions initially being coplanar with the strap and the two laterally opposed and symmetrically aligned handle half portions being adapted to fold together in-situ to an upright

position to form a handle for the strap portion.

2. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 1, wherein the handle half portions comprise a grip region having an undulating contoured inner edge adapted to comfortably fit against a user's fingers, such that when the device is lifted by the user, the undulations prevent excessive sliding of the device about the user's hands.

3. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 1, wherein each longitudinally spaced coupling portion at the second end of the strap portion comprises a pair of laterally extending barbs on opposite lateral edges of the strap portion.

4. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 1, wherein each longitudinally spaced coupling portion at the second end of the strap portion comprises a pair of laterally extending arrow-shaped locking portions on opposite lateral edges of the strap portion.

5. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 1, wherein each coupling portion at the second end of the strap portion includes a pair of angled notches adapted to engage a portion of the aperture, the angled notches having two legs,

a first leg being substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the strap portion,

a second leg being oblique to the longitudinal axis of the strap portion such that a

second end of the second leg is located closer to the longitudinal axis of the strap than a first end of the second leg,

the first leg being capable of detachably engaging the aperture at the first end of the strap portion to prevent loosening of the carry strap with foldable handles from about an object to be lifted, the second leg allowing a one-way ratcheting effect to facilitate tightening of the strap about the object to be lifted.

6. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 1, wherein the second end of the strap portion terminates in a surface that is oblique to the longitudinal axis of the strap portion

7. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 1, wherein the second end of the strap portion terminates in a portion having at least one pair of oblique portions, arranged symmetrically about the longitudinal axis of the strap portion.

8. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 1, the second end of the strap portion terminating in a surface that is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the strap portion.

9. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 1, wherein the aperture in the female portion at the first end of the strap portion, for receiving the second end of the

strap, is substantially T-shaped and comprises a perpendicular portion arranged substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the strap and a longitudinal portion arranged substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the strap.

10. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 9, wherein the perpendicular portion of the T-shaped aperture is shorter than the longitudinal portion of the T-shaped aperture to facilitate insertion of a male coupling portion having a width greater than that of the perpendicular portion of the T-shaped aperture, the larger width of the male coupling portion helping secure the first and second ends of the adjustable carry strap with foldable handles to one another.

11. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 1, further comprising a pair of tabs at the first end of the strap portion, the tabs adapted to secure an excess portion of the second end of the strap portion protruding through the aperture, to the first end of the strap portion, the tabs extending upward from a first planar surface of the strap, the tabs having inwardly projecting protrusions located at their upper ends

12. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 1, wherein the length of the strap is pre-selected based upon a circumference of an object to be lifted.

13. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 1, wherein a distance

between longitudinally spaced male coupling portions is pre-selected based upon a circumference of an object to be lifted.

14. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 1, wherein the longitudinally spaced male coupling portions are arranged in sections centered about predetermined longitudinal positions on the strap portion, each predetermined longitudinal position corresponding to a circumference of an object to be lifted.

15. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 1, wherein the handles are arranged on the strap portion near the first end of the device.

16. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 1, wherein the handles automatically fold flat when not in use, into a plane of the strap portion.

17. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 1, further comprising at least one gusset affixed to and arranged between at least one lateral edge of the strap portion and at least one connecting portion of the handle.

18. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 1, wherein the adjustable carry strap with foldable handles is affixed to an object, in order to facilitate carrying the object.

19. The adjustable carry strap with foldable handles of claim 17, wherein the object is a roll of knitted plastic netting.